

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 026827
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----120542 012013Z /47

O 011942Z FEB 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 026827

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 0804 ACTION STATE FEB 1.

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 0804

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF F-15 SALE TO CONGRESS

REF: STATE 25643

1. WE ARE PLEASED AND RELIEVED TO RECEIVE REFTEL. WE HAVE ASKED FOR AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH FAHD TO DELIVER MESSAGE. HOWEVER, HE IS AT DEDICATION OF KING KHALID CITY TODAY AND SAUDI WEEK-END MAY INTERFERE WITH APPOINTMENT TOMORROW.

2. IN ANY EVENT, WE SUGGEST THAT THE MESSAGE SHOULD POSSIBLY BE IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE KING,

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MAKING BASICALLY THE SAME POINTS AS REFTEL PLUS THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL POINTS:

- A) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, ESPECIALLY SO IN VIEW OF NECESSITY OF OVERCOMING PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL HOSTILITY;
- B) THAT THE SUGGESTION OF A POSSIBLE DELAY WAS IN THE HOPE OF SECURING A MORE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TO

SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL, BUT AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE REACTION AS EXPRESSED BY THE CROWN PRINCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT IS PROCEEDING, RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING SAUDI ARABIA'S CONCERN OVER ANY DELAY.

3. OUR ANALYSIS AS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO YOU IS THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE THIS SALE A KEY INDICATOR OF THE STRENGTH OF US-SAG RELATIONS AND THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS ACCEDING TO SAUDI WISHES IN THE FACE OF LESS THAN FAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE SHOULD BE USED TO BEST ADVANTAGE. THE LETTER FORM, WE THINK, WOULD TEND TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT. WEST UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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